



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SOUTH AMERICA

COUNTRY PROFILE



USAID works with the Ministries of Health of South American countries to improve their response to malaria in the vast network of government clinics across the Amazon basin.

SNAPSHOT

USAID has missions in 6 countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru
Population: 382 million
GDP per capita: \$7,264

OVERVIEW

United States Government assistance is focused on trade capacity building in the Andean countries, including enforcement of labor standards and intellectual property rights, and strengthening the capacity of South American governments to address threats posed by major infectious diseases. The economic growth focus of the South America Regional program seeks to increase the competitiveness of the private and public sectors in the Andean countries by strengthening their capacity to attract investment and facilitate exports and imports. Under the health focus, the program recognizes that infectious diseases cross borders, producing health and developmental impacts throughout the region with ramifications for public health in the United States. The program is designed to take a regional approach to the cross-national challenge infectious diseases represent.

PROGRAMS

Economic Growth

A priority foreign policy objective in the Andean region is economic growth to reduce and alleviate poverty. High unemployment, extreme income inequality, and poverty persist, contributing to popular discontent with governments and civil strife. Investment and workforce productivity are constrained by poor quality, inefficient, and highly inequitable public education. To address these diverse challenges, countries in the Andean region must continue to strengthen their institutional foundation and capacity for trade-led economic growth in order to provide more economic and employment opportunities for the poor and reduce poverty.

USAID fosters the development of free trade by strengthening the environment for trade and investment in the Andean countries (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia). The program addresses the challenges that these countries face which prevent them from taking full advantage of market access provisions under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act and bilateral free trade agreements with the United States. This work complements the U.S. Government effort to promote economic alternatives to the region's illicit production of drug crops, while reinforcing the commitment of the region's countries to build stable and prosperous democracies. The South American Regional program also complements the Trade Promotion Agreements that have been signed with Peru and Colombia.

These challenges include the perception of high risk that thwarts trade and investment as well as the lack of straightforward pro-trade policies and trade infrastructure. The program responds to these challenges by focusing on

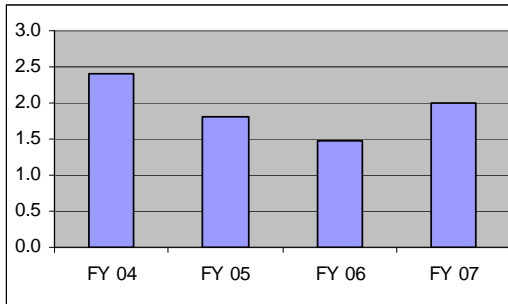


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COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

**USAID ASSISTANCE
TO SOUTH AMERICA REGIONAL
(DOLLARS IN MILLIONS)**



strengthening the enabling environment for trade and investment. Funds will be used to improve the ability of the Andean private and public sectors to establish and enforce policies which develop a more competitive business environment in the region and improve the response of firms to regional and global market demands.

Health

The South American region is characterized by uneven public health capacity. Most countries in the region fail to deal effectively with major diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis (TB), dengue, and HIV/AIDS. Additionally, weak regulation of pharmaceuticals contributes to the growing problem of microbial resistance to antibiotics. The U.S. will support efforts to combat TB, particularly Multi Drug Resistant TB, by continuing to promote the World Health Organization's recommended TB control strategies. The program will also enhance the capacity of TB health workers and help ensure a continuous supply of high quality anti-TB drugs.

The South America Regional Program supports an effort to reduce the spread of infectious diseases with particular focus on malaria in the Amazon Basin, which accounts for approximately 90% of malaria deaths region-wide. Specific activities may include: 1) determination of drug efficacy in the various parts of the region and implementation of evidence based new anti-malarial drug policies, 2) harmonization of national drug policy with specific sub-regions of the various countries, 3) building human capacity in the region regarding various malaria issues, 4) building decentralized laboratory capacity for quality control, 5) testing the effectiveness and appropriate use of selected new rapid diagnostic methods, 6) integrated and selective vector control, and 7) addressing drug quality control through procurement, distribution chain management, and oversight of marketing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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